



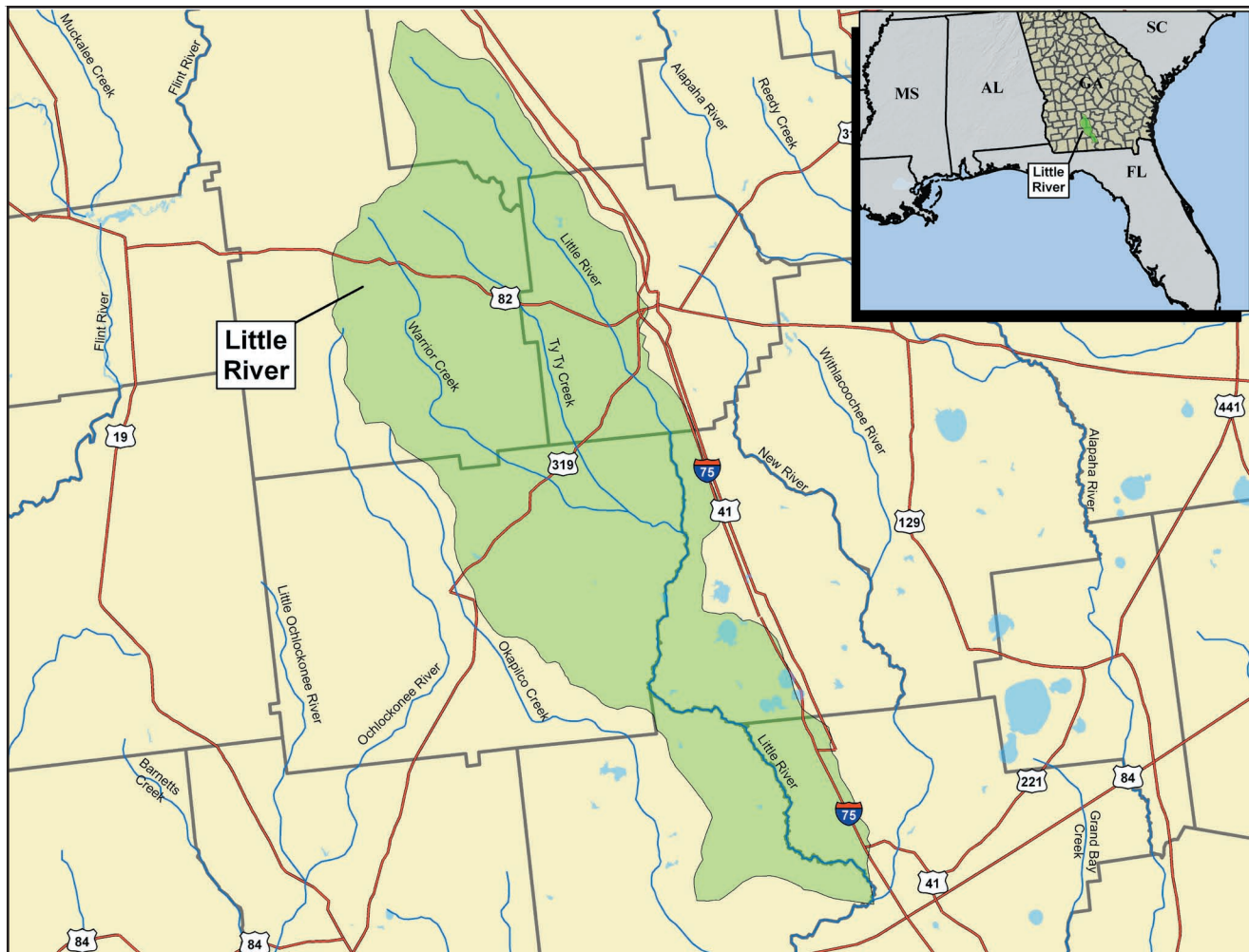
United States Department of Agriculture

Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP)

Watershed Fact Sheet

Little River Watershed, Georgia: 2004-2006

An ARS* Benchmark Research Watershed, one of 24 CEAP watershed projects.



CEAP Assessment

Evaluate effects of riparian buffers and other practices in reducing pesticide, nutrient, and sediment water pollution.

Issues: Runoff from farms carries pesticides, nutrients, and soil through dense forests to slow-moving streams that eventually pour into the Suwanee River; effects of drought on irrigation water supplies.

Watershed Description

- Near Tifton, Georgia
- 82,560 acres
- 40% woodland, 36% cropland, 18% pasture
- Georgia has designated many streams as impaired by low dissolved oxygen levels.

**Agricultural Research Service*



NRCS employee Mary Leidner evaluates irrigation water management on a field with Brian Ponder.



Rain gauge for irrigation records.



Landscape of twin row peanuts.

Approach

Water Sampling: Oxygen, pesticides, phosphorus, nitrate-nitrogen, sediment, and temperature

Watershed Models: A systems model will be developed for predicting effects of conservation initiatives, land use changes, and irrigation water needs.

Assess Practices: Plot and small watershed experiments will examine effects of best management practices (BMPs) on chemical and sediment transport in both Georgia Coastal Plain and South Florida agro-ecosystems. Large-scale studies will assess effects on runoff quantity and aquifer recharge.

Communicating Results

Three annual progress reports, recommendations on BMPs for improving water quality.

Collaborators

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Georgia Cotton Commission
- Georgia Environmental Protection Division
- University of Georgia
- Georgia Technical Institute

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